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February 16. Inspected and passed the British steamship *Alexandrian*, bound for a port in the United States, via Mexican ports, with 43 in the crew and 7 first-class passengers; vessel sails in a partial European general cargo.

February 17. Inspected and passed the British steamship *Teviotdale*, bound for Galveston, with 27 in the crew; vessel sails in ballast. Inspected and passed the Norwegian steamship *Tabor*, bound for Perth Amboy, N. J., with 29 in the crew; vessel sails in a cargo of lead and copper bullion.

PANAMA.

Report from Colon—Mortality—Improved sanitary conditions—Quarantine maintained against possibly infected places.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Mohr reports, February 15, as follows:

During the month of January, 1906, there were 62 deaths in the municipalities of Colon and Cristobal, the population of which, jointly, may be estimated at 12,000. The causes of death were officially reported as follows:

Pneumonia	18	Nepatitis.....	1
Malaria	8	Abscess of liver	1
Dysentery	2	Diarrhea	4
Tuberculosis	2	Cholera infantum.....	1
Beriberi	1	Uncinariasis	1
Alcoholism	1	Nephritis	3
Paralysis.....	1	Abscess	1
Meningitis	1	Traumatism	2
Infantile convulsions.....	1	Suicide	1
Syncope	1	Weakness.....	2
Heart failure	2	Congestive fever.....	1
Pernicious anemia	1	Stillbirths.....	2
Broncho-pneumonia	1	Unknown.....	2

Of these, 29 occurred in the Colon hospital and 20 of the total number of deaths were among the employees of the Canal Commission, all of whom were West Indian negroes or natives of the Tropics. I am informed that during the month of December, 1905, there were no deaths among the white population of the Canal Zone.

This is the height of the dry season, which is generally supposed to be the season of least sickness on the Isthmus. A great improvement in conditions in Colon is noticeable. The dry season has allowed of the grading and filling of streets and the removal of brush and undergrowth in the outlying swampy portions of the island as well as in the town itself. What were once almost impassable paths and alleys have been converted into well-graded and graveled thoroughfares, whereby large areas of mosquito-breeding surface have been eliminated. There are many low places in lots and under houses which, when the rains begin, will harbor numerous mosquitoes, but these, owing to the engineering problems involved, can not be easily rectified by the sanitary authorities.

The scarcity of water for all purposes, which prevails again this year, is keenly felt by the greater part of the population, especially the poorer classes. Water, poor in quality, from the Mount Hope basin of the Panama Railroad in limited quantity is being distributed free. Every drop of potable water is carefully hoarded, and the

emptying of such receptacles as the people possess would cause great suffering, yet they may all be regarded as good breeding places for mosquitoes. A number of discarded bottles and a barrel filled with rain water found near one of the docks revealed large numbers of the larvæ of *Stegomyia fasciata*. It requires the greatest care and unrelenting vigilance on the part of the sanitary inspectors to prevent such accumulations of water in old containers around the dwellings of the negroes.

The last case of yellow fever on the Isthmus was reported in Colon on December 14, 1905. Although but 60 days have elapsed since this case, I do not believe that the infection exists at present in this port, for it is reasonable to infer that, with the number of *Stegomyia* found breeding about the town, a single focus would be sufficient to cause a spread of the disease, as the nonimmune population is considerably larger than last year.

Rigid quarantine restrictions against possibly infected places are being maintained. All nonimmune passengers from such ports are held in quarantine to complete 6 full days from time of embarkation. The detention barracks of the isthmian quarantine service are completed and open for the reception of both cabin and steerage passengers. These barracks are located on the extreme eastern end of the northern shore of the island in a well-isolated spot. They are well equipped and under excellent management.

RUSSIA.

Report from St. Petersburg—Plague in the Province of Astrakhan.

The following is received from Ambassador Meyer, under date of January 31 and February 1:

A new case of plague was discovered on January 2, 1906, in the district of the Kirghiz Steppe.

Since December 28, 1905, 7 cases of plague, of which 5 were fatal, occurred at Karabaklan, district of Krassnoyarsk, in the Kirghiz Steppe.

FOREIGN AND INSULAR STATISTICAL REPORTS OF COUNTRIES AND CITIES—UNTABULATED.

AFRICA—*Lourenço Marquez*.—Month of December, 1905. Estimated population, 10,000. Total number of deaths, 48, including 6 from tuberculosis.

BRAZIL—*Pernambuco*.—Two weeks ended January 15, 1905. Estimated population, 200,000. Total number of deaths, 308, including measles 1, whooping cough 1, plague 2, smallpox 43, and 61 from tuberculosis.

CANADA—*British Columbia—Victoria*.—Month of January, 1906. Estimated population, 21,000. Total number of deaths 26, including enteric fever 2, and 2 from phthisis pulmonalis.

GERMANY—*Strasburg*.—Month of December, 1905. Estimated population, 167,342. Total number of deaths, 234, including diphtheria